

USS CONE (DD 866)
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By Direction

Copy to:
COMDESRON FOUR
COMDESDIV FOUR TWO

COMMAND HISTORY

USS CONE (DD 866)

1 JAN 1968 - 31 DEC 1968

COMMAND HISTORY
USS CONE (DD 866)
1 JANUARY-31 DECEMBER, 1968

On 1 January, 1968, CONE was moored in Subic Bay, Philippines, having just completed transit of the Pacific Ocean. USS BRYCE CANYON (AD 36) provided tender services. With combat operations imminent, there was little time for relaxation as the crew worked long hours preparing for anticipated missions in the Gulf of Tonkin.

On January 8 and 9 CONE engaged in extensive type-training in the Subic operations area in preparation for assignment to the Southern Search and Rescue (SSAR) unit in the Gulf of Tonkin. Maximum usage was made of the gunnery range at Tabones, and the ship's proficiency at helo-in-flight refueling was perfected.

CONE and DEWEY departed Subic Bay on 13 January and arrived in Da Nang on the fifteenth. The day was devoted to operational briefings and some further type-training before getting underway for Southern SAR station on the sixteenth.

As a unit of TE 77.0.1.2 with COMDESDIV FOUR TWO as Task Element Commander, CONE spent 11 days on Southern Search and Rescue in company with DEWEY. During this time CONE assisted in the recovery of 6 aviators in three separate incidents.

On the twenty-ninth, CONE departed SSAR and steamed independently to Kao-Hsiung, Taiwan, where she remained until 6 February. During that period USS HECTOR (AR 7) provided another tender availability. As an interesting liberty port, Kao-Hsiung rated high on the list of both officer and enlisted personnel.

CONE departed Kao-Hsiung on the sixth, enroute to provide Gun Fire Support for the 3rd Marine Division operating just south of the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Vietnam. On 8 February, CONE fired her guns in anger for the first time since commissioning in 1945. The long hours of gunnery practice proved their worth. This period on the "gunline" coincided with the North Vietnamese build-up prior to the TET offensive and there was a great demand for gunfire from the destroyers patrolling off the DMZ. In 11 days of round-the-clock operations, CONE fired an average of 680 rounds per day for a total expenditure of 7501 rounds. The many underway replenishments and rearmings, some conducted at night and under poor weather conditions, as well as the long hours of firing, were a test of human stamina. CONE departed the gunline on 19 February. All hands were proud of the numerous messages received from Marine Corps spotters praising the effectiveness of the ship's gunfire.

CONE joined the attack carrier USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63) and her escorts in the Gulf of Tonkin. As an escort for KITTY HAWK, CONE served as a surface rescue vessel during launch and recovery of attack aircraft. Commanding Officer, USS CONE (DD 866) assumed tactical command of the task element comprised of KITTY HAWK escorts. KITTY HAWK and her escorts departed Yankee Station on 26 February for a period of upkeep in Subic Bay, Philippines. USS AJAX (AR 6) provided tender services to CONE from 23 February until 2 March, when KITTY HAWK and her escorts departed Subic Bay to return to operations on Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin. During the upkeep period, USS MC CARD (DD 822), also of Destroyer Squadron FOUR, joined the Task Unit as an escort.

CONE terminated Surface Rescue Operations with KITTY HAWK on 4 March and proceeded to station off the coast of North Vietnam where she operated

as Commander Task Unit 70.0.4, conducting both picket station duties and combined operations with Sea Dragon forces employed in Gunfire Support Missions north of the De-militarized Zone. Other units participating in Sea Dragon, at that time, were USS HOEL (DDG 13) and USS BLUE (DD 744).

Relieved of Southwest Picket Station and Sea Dragon duties on 7 March, CONE proceeded to II Corps Tactical Zone south of Da Nang to provide Gunfire Support for Korean Forces in that area. CONE fired 1865 rounds prior to departure on 17 March.

For the next two weeks, CONE successively escorted USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA 31), USS RANGER (CVA 61), and USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63), each engaged in Yankee Station operations.

On March 27, CONE in company with USS KITTY HAWK and USS MC CARD departed Yankee Station enroute to Yokosuka, Japan, arriving there on 1 April 1968. After a concentrated effort by the crew, CONE successfully completed an INSURV Inspection on the 4th and 5th of April. Leaving Yokosuka with KITTY HAWK on 8 April, CONE returned to Yankee Station on the 12th and, in company with another DESDIV 41 ship, USS BORDELON (DD 881), served as rescue destroyer and Screen Commander for USS KITTY HAWK in support of strike operations. CONE departed Yankee Station on 17 April for her final tour on the "gunline."

Arriving in I Corps Tactical Zone on 18 April, CONE's main armament was again employed in support of Marine Forces in the Zone. Before departing the area on the 30th, CONE fired 2950 rounds bringing her grand total of 5"38 cal. rounds fired during the deployment to 12,881.

CONE returned to Yankee Station and operations with USS KITTY HAWK on 1 May 1968. On 2 May, KITTY HAWK and escorts departed the Gulf of Tonkin arriving in Subic Bay, Philippines on the 3rd for a brief stop prior to proceeding to Hong Kong. CONE anchored in the harbor of Hong Kong early

In the morning on the 5th of May and all hands went ashore with their shopping lists to enjoy the crowded streets and shops of this famous International trading center.

CONE departed Hong Kong on 11 May and arrived in Yokosuka, Japan on the 15th after stopping briefly for fuel at Okinawa. Many of the ship's company used this final opportunity to see Japan and tours of all types were fully subscribed.

Yokosuka was the point of reunion for the Task Unit and CONE started the long trip home on 20 May in company with USS DEWEY (DLG 14) and JAMES C. OWENS (DD 776), with COMDESDIV FOUR TWO embarked in DEWEY. After refueling at Midway Island on the 25th, the transit unit arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 28 May. Departing for San Diego, California on the 31st, CONE, DEWEY and OWENS were joined by USS JOHNSTON (DD 821), thus reuniting Destroyer Division Forty-Two for the remainder of the homeward journey.

The Division arrived in San Diego on 6 June. Departing San Diego on 10 June the Division transited the Panama Canal on the 18th.

CONE arrived at Pier Papa, Charleston, on 22 June 1968. Needless to say, happy reunions were the order of the day, followed by numerous farewells as many crewmembers went to civilian life and others departed on leave and then to new duty stations.

CONE was once again underway on 31 July for special operations. After a brief stop at Key West, Florida on 2 August, a liberty weekend followed in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. CONE departed Fort Lauderdale on 5 August and, while enroute, exercised her AAW capability by firing at target drones. CONE returned to Charleston on 6 August.

On the 9th of August, CONE's fantail was the stage for the Pacific

Deployment awards ceremony. Two Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V", five Navy Achievement Medals with Combat "V", sixteen letters of Commendation from Commander SEVENTH Fleet, and Twelve citations from Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group, SEVENTH Fleet were presented.

On 8 October, one brief chapter of CONE's history was closed, CONE's two Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopters (DASH) were off-loaded for the last time.

On the 13th of November, CONE berthed at the Naval Shipyard, Charleston, S. C. Regular Overhaul began on 18 November 1968, the crew settled into a regular routine of repair and maintenance, aided by the capable and Industrious shipyard personnel.

CONE's forward 5"/38 twin gun-mount was removed on 6 December, having fired over 6000 rounds in WESTPAC.

On Friday the 13th of December CONE passed the sill of Drydock number One, Charleston Naval Shipyard and gently settled onto the keel blocks where she remained to greet the new year.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1-7 JAN-SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
8-9 JAN-TYPE TRAINING, TABONES RANGE/SOUTHERN SEARCH AND RESCUE
10-12 JAN-SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
13-14 JAN-ENROUTE
15-16 JAN-DA NANG RVN
17-18 JAN-ENROUTE
19-29 JAN-SOUTH SEARCH AND RESCUE, GULF OF TONKIN
30 JAN-ENROUTE
31-5 FEB-KAO-HSIUNG, TAIWAN
6 FEB-ENROUTE
7-18 FEB-GUNLINE I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE/DE-MILITARIZED ZONE
19-21 FEB-YANKEE STATION, GULF OF TONKIN
22 FEB-ENROUTE
23-1 FEB-SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
2 MAR-ENROUTE
3 MAR-YANKEE STATION, GULF OF TONKIN
4-7 MAR-COMMANDER TASK UNIT 70.0.4/SEA DRAGON, GULF OF TONKIN
8-9 MAR-GUNLINE I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE/DE-MILITARIZED ZONE
10-17 MAR-GUNLINE II CORPS TACTICAL ZONE
18-27 MAR-YANKEE STATION, GULF OF TONKIN
28-31 MAR-ENROUTE
1-7 APR-YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
8-11 APR-ENROUTE
12-17 APR-YANKEE STATION, GULF OF TONKIN

18-29 APR-GUNLINE I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE/DE-MILITARIZED ZONE
30 APR-ENROUTE/YANKEE STATION
1 MAY-YANKEE STATION, GULF OF TONKIN
2 MAY-ENROUTE
3 MAY-SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
4 MAY-ENROUTE
5-10 MAY-HONG KONG
11-12 MAY-ENROUTE
13 MAY-ENROUTE/OKINAWA
14 MAY-ENROUTE
15-19 MAY-YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
20-24 MAY-ENROUTE
25 - MAY-MIDWAY/ENROUTE
26-28 MAY-ENROUTE
29-31 MAY-PEARL HARBOR
1-5 JUN-ENROUTE
6-9 JUN-SNA DIEGO
10-18 JUN-ENROUTE
18 JUN-PANAMA CANAL
19-21 JUN-ENROUTE
22 JUN-CHARLESTON
31 JUL-ENROUTE
2 AUG-KEY WEST/ENROUTE
3 AUG-PORT EVERGLADES
5 AUG-ENROUTE
6 AUG-CHARLESTON
13 AUG-AT SEA FOR PRE-OVERHAUL VIBRATION SURVEY
13 DEC-DRYDOCK, CHARLESTON NAVAL SHIPYARD

3 FEBRUARY 1968

NEW RELEASE

THE CHARLESTON, S.C. BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) WAS INVOLVED IN SEVERAL SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) INCIDENTS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC ON 24 JAN 1963.

AN ALL WEATHER ATTACK-BOMBER FLYING FROM A U. S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER BECAME DISABLED AND THE CREW WAS FORCED TO BAIL OUT. CONE, IN COMPANY WITH THE NORFOLK BASED GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER USS DEWEY (DLG 14) SPED TO THE IMPACT AREA AND READILY LOCATED THE PILOT IN HIS LIFERAFT. THE PILOT WAS PUT ABOARD DEWEY, WHO HAD SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS FOR RESCUED FLIERS. CONE EXECUTED TACTICAL SEARCH PLANS FOR THE NAVIGATOR OF THE AIRCRAFT AS SOON AS THE PILOT WAS SAFELY ABOARD THE DEWEY. NUMEROUS BITS AND PIECES OF THE AIRCRAFT WERE RETRIEVED, INCLUDING PARTS OF THE WING AND TAIL ASSEMBLIES. THE NAVIGATOR'S HELMET WAS RECOVERED ADDING TO THE ARNEST HOPES OF ALL HANDS THAT HE WOULD BE FOUND ALIVE AND SAFE. SEARCH AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS FROM AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING NEARBY ASSISTED IN THE SEARCH INTO THE LATE HOURS OF THE NEXT DAY. HOWEVER, THE NAVIGATOR WAS NOT FOUND. EARLIER ON THE 24TH A SEARCH AND RESCUE HELICOPTER CRASHED AT SEA WHILE ON A ROUTINE EQUIPMENT CHECK FLIGHT, AND CONE ASSISTED IN THE RECOVERY OF THE HELICOPTER'S CREW. ALL FOUR CREW MEMBERS OF THE HELICOPTER'S CREW WERE RECOVERED SAFELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY RETURNED TO DEWEY. BOTH SHIPS ARE UNDER THE TACTICAL COMMAND OF CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE, III, COMMANDER DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, WHO RESIDES IN (b) (6). CONE IS COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6) (b) (6) AND IS A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN.

7 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

TWO DESTROYERS OF THE CHARLESTON, S.C. BASED DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR WERE RECENTLY REUNITED IN KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF DUTY WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET THE DESTROYERS USS CONE (DD 866) AND USS MANLEY (DD 940) VISITED KAOHSIUNG FOR A HARD EARNED REST AND NECESSARY MAINTENANCE. CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODY OF (b) (6), RECENTLY COMPLETED TWO WEEKS OF SEARCH AND RESCUE PATROLS AND WAS INVOLVED IN THE RECOVERY OF SEVERAL DOWNED AIRMEN. COMMANDER CODY CALLED ON CAPTAIN D. W. SCHERMERHORN, COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, WHO WAS EMBARKED IN THE MANLEY WHILE CONE'S PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LCDR F. C. DUGAN, III, WHO IS PRESENTLY ON THE COMMODORE'S STAFF, RETURNED TO CONE FOR A BRIEF VISIT WITH THE OFFICERS AND MEN HE HAD RECENTLY SERVED WITH. THE PEOPLE OF KAOHSIUNG SPREAD OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR THE MEN OF CONE AND ALL HANDS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND TIME ON A WELL DESERVED LIBERTY AFTER MANY DAYS OF ARDUOUS SEA DUTY. CONE DEPARTED CHARLESTON ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 AS A UNIT OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE, III, AND EXPECTS TO RETURN IN THE SUMMER OF 1968.

9 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

AT 1050 ON THE 8TH OF FEBRUARY 1968, THE CHARLESTON, S.C. BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) FIRED HER FIRST SHOTS AT ENEMY POSITIONS IN VIETNAM. WHILE THE SHIP WAS WAITING FOR MARINE CORPS SPOTTERS TO ASSIGN THE NEXT MISSION, THE SHIP'S HISTORIAN LTJG (b) (6) OF (b) (6)

(b) (6) REPORTED THAT THE SHIP'S HISTORY SHOWED THAT THIS WAS IN FACT THE FIRST SHOT USS CONE HAD FIRED IN ANGER SINCE HER COMMISSIONING IN 1945. DURING THE NEXT TWELVE HOURS CONE FIRED APPROXIMATELY 645 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION OPERATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM IN THE VICINITY OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE.

CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6) WAS CREDITED WITH DIRECT HITS ON SIX STRUCTURES AND STARTING FOUR LARGE FIRES WHILE FIRING ON NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY POSITIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM FIFTY MILES NORTHWEST OF THE CITY OF HUE. THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION WAS EVIDENT WHEN THE GUNFIRE SUPPORT SPOTTER ASHORE REPORTED "YOUR SHOOTING WAS OUTSTANDING, SOME OF THE BEST SHOOTING THAT I HAVE HAD SINCE I'VE BEEN OVER HERE. SURE HOPE YE CAN GET TOGETHER TO SHOOT AGAIN SOMETIME".

THE WEAPONS OFFICER, LT. (b) (6) OF (b) (6), CONGRATULATED HIS GUN CREWS ON THEIR PERFORMANCE. AFTERWARDS, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR CONE'S UNUSUALLY HIGH RATE OF FIRING WAS THAT ALL THE SHIP'S CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS HAD VOLUNTARILY ASSIGNED THEMSELVES TO THE AMMUNITION PASSING CREWS. THIS UNUSUAL FACT CAME TO LIGHT WHEN THE COMMANDING OFFICER ADMINISTERED THE REENLISTMENT OATH TO CHIEF (b) (6)

(b) (6) OF (b) (6) IMMEDIATELY AFTER SECURING FROM SHORE BOMBARDMENT. THE CAPTAIN ASKED CHIEF (b) (6) WHY HE HAD SO MUCH GREASE ON HIS HANDS AND THE TRUTH CAME TO LIGHT. COMMANDER CODAY WAS HEARD TO REMARK THAT THIS WAS A FITTING GESTURE TO MARK CONE'S FIRST DAY ON THE

GUNLINE. AS A UNIT OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN J. J. TICE, AND OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN D. V. SCHERMERHORN, CONE IS ONE OF SEVEN CHARLESTON BASED DESTROYERS CURRENTLY OPERATING IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES AIMS IN VIETNAM. CONE IS THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO AND DEPARTED CHARLESTON ON 15 NOVEMBER 67.

10 FEBRUARY 1968

NEW RELEASE

WHILE OPERATING OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM ON 9 FEBRUARY 1968, FIVE MILES SOUTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, THE CHARLESTON S.C. BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) FIRED 734 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION. CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6) WAS NOTIFIED BY THE GUNFIRE SUPPORT SPOTTER ASHORE THAT THE RESULTS OF CONE'S BOMBARDMENT WERE OUTSTANDING. HAVING DESTROYED ELEVEN STRUCTURES, WHILE CAUSING FOUR SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS IN ENEMY MORTAR POSITIONS, AND STARTING NINE SIGNIFICANT FIRES IN CONFIRMED NORTH VIETNESE ARMY POSITIONS. THE FIRES BURNED SO BRILLIANTLY THAT THE SPOTTER INFORMED CONE THAT EVERYBODY WAS "UP WATCHING THEM" AND REQUESTED THAT HE BE SENT 9000 MARSHMELLOWS. CONE IS A UNIT OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN J. J. TICE AND ONE OF SEVEN DESTROYERS OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN D. V. SCHERMERHORN, PRESENTLY OPERATING WITH THE SEVENTHFLT OFF VIETNAM.

11 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

THE GENERAL PURPOSE DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) COMMANDED BY COMMANDER CODY OF (b) (6), IS PRESENTLY OPERATING OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION IN THE VICINITY OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. CONE DEPARTED FROM HER HOMEPORT OF CHARLESTON ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 WITH DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN J. J. TICE, AND IS ONE OF THE SEVEN DESTROYERS OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN D. V. SCHERMERHORN, CURRENTLY OPERATING OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM. PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE GUNLINE, CONE'S PRIMARY MISSION IS THE BOMBARDMENT OF ENEMY POSITIONS AS ASSIGNED BY MARINE CORPS SPOTTERS ASHORE. THESE POSITIONS VARY FROM CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR SITES TO TROOP CONCENTRATIONS AND SUPPLY ROUTES. EXPECTED TO BE READY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY TO FIRE ON A MOMENTS NOTICE MAKES IT ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE MEN OF CONE. THE RATE OF FIRE MAKES IT NECESSARY TO REARM AT SEA FROM AMMUNITION SHIP AT LEAST EVERY OTHER DAY. NORMALLY AT NIGHT, AN EVOLUTION WHICH REQUIRES A TEAM EFFORT BY ALL HANDS. IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO REFUEL AND TO RESUPPLY THE SHIP AT SEA ONCE AGAIN REQUIRING AN ALL OUT EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE CREW. SLEEP IS AT A PREMIUM AND EVERY DAY BRINGS LONG, HARD HOURS OF WORK FOR THE 277 MEN AND 18 OFFICERS OF CONE. YET ONE RARELY HEARS A COMPLAINT AND ALL HANDS ARE PREPARED TO GIVE THEIR UTMOST IN ORDER TO HELP PROTECT THE LIVES OF OUR MARINE COMRADES ASHORE. AS COMMANDER CODY RECENTLY EXPRESSED IN A LETTER TO THE FAMILIES OF THE MEN OF CONE "TIME AND TIME AGAIN I HAVE REMARKED THAT THIS GENERATION OF YOUNG AMERICANS WHO MAN CONE ARE THE MOST HIGHLY SKILLED, MOTIVATED, AND INDUSTRIOUS GENERATION EVER PRODUCED. WITH THESE MEN AND YOUR SUPPORT AMERICA CAN NEVER FAIL IN ANY OF HER ENDEAVORS".

13 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

THE CHARLESTON, S.C. BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866), COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6) HAS COMPLETED HER FIFTH DAY OF NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION FIVE MILES SOUTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. DURING THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR PERIOD FROM MIDNIGHT 11 FEBRUARY 1968 TO MIDNIGHT 12 FEBRUARY 1968, CONE FIRED 1225 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON ACTIVE ENEMY MORTAR POSITIONS AND TROOP CONCENTRATIONS AND ON VIET CONG ROCKET LAUNCHING POSITIONS. ALTHOUGH DARKNESS PREVENTED ACCURATE TARGET DAMAGE ASSESSMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, CONE WAS CREDITED WITH CAUSING DESTRUCTION OF AT LEAST EIGHT FORTIFIED POSITIONS WHILE DAMAGING THREE OTHERS AS WELL AS CAUSING SIX SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND NUMEROUS FIRES. DURING A MISSION ON THE NIGHT OF 12 FEBRUARY 1968, CONE FIRED 256 ROUNDS INTO AN ENEMY POSITION OCCUPIED BY THE VIET CONG AND AS THE LOCATION OF NUMEROUS CONFIRMED ENEMY MORTAR SITES. THE TARGET COVERAGE PROVIDED BY CONE WAS EXCELLENT CAUSING THE MARINE GUNFIRE SUPPORT SPOTTER ASHORE TO COMMENT, QUOTE I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THIS HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING MISSION... ALL ROUNDS WERE ON TARGET... THE SPOTS TOOK PERFECT EFFECT... IT WAS THE FASTEST (RATE OF FIRE) SHOOTING THAT WE HAVE EVER SEEN HERE AND IN ALL BY FAR THE BEST NAVAL GUNFIRE I HAVE EVER SEEN OUT HERE (VIETNAM) UNQUOTE. THESE FIRST FIVE DAYS ON THE GUNLINE HAVE SEEN CONE FIRING OVER 3000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION, A FEAT WHICH COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY A MAXIMUM EFFORT BY ALL HANDS WHO SACRIFICE MANY HOUR OF SLEEP IN ORDER TO SUPPORT OUR MARINE TROOPS ASHORE.

CONE DEPARTED CHARLESTON ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 AS THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN J. J. TICE. AS A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN D. V. SCHERMERHORN, CONE IS ONE OF SEVEN DESRON FOUR DESTROYERS OPERATING IN VIETNAM WATERS.

14 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

THE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) FIRED 420 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON NORTH VIETNAM ARMY POSITIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM DURING THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR PERIOD ENDING AT MIDNIGHT 13 FEBRUARY 1968. CONE COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR OODAY, WAS SUPPORTING THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION, 10 MILES SOUTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE BY PROVIDING NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT ON TARGETS ASSIGNED BY MARINE GUNFIRE SUPPORT SPOTTERS ASHORE. IN ONE PARTICULAR INCIDENT, CONE WAS RETURNING TO STATION AFTER REFUELING AT SEA FROM A NAVY OILER WHEN THE MARINE SPOTTER ASSIGNED AN URGENT MISSION WHICH REQUIRED IMMEDIATE BOMBARDMENT OF ENTRENCHED NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY TROOPS FIVE MILES SOUTH OF THE DMZ. CONE APPROACHED HER STATION AT FLANK SPEED, BACKED DOWN FULL AND FIRED THE FIRST ROUND MOMENTS AFTER SWINGING INTO POSITION. THERE WAS TIME ONLY TO EXPEND 20 ROUNDS BEFORE A MARINE SWEEP THRU THE AREA REACHED THE PERIMETER OF THE VILLAGE. OBSERVERS COUNTED TWENTY TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY REGULAR TROOPS KILLED IN ACTION BY CONE'S FIVE INCH GUNS. IN COMPLIMENTING THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF CONE FOR THEIR PRECISION PERFORMANCE CDR OODAY STATED QUOTE TODAY'S TEAM EFFORT BY THE SHIP AND THE MARINE CORPS IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SEA POWER UNQUOTE.

CONE, FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN J. J. TICE, DEPARTED CHARLESTON ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 FOR DUTY WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET. AS A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, CONE JOINS THE OTHER SIX SHIPS OF THE SQUADRON ON STATION OF VIETNAM.

15 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

ON 14 FEBRUARY 1968 THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) FIRED 724 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION JUST SOUTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. MARINE SPOTTERS ASHORE REPORTED EXCELLENT COVERAGE OF THE TARGET AREAS BY CONE'S GUNFIRE ALTHOUGH PRECISE ASSESSMENT OF TARGET DAMAGE WAS IN MOST CASES NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO TARGET LOCATION. CONE DID DISCOVER THAT THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION HAS AMONGST THEIR SPOTTERS A POET WHEN ONE PARTICULAR SPOTTER REPLIED TO CONE'S REQUEST FOR AN EVALUATION OF THE SHIP'S GUNFIRE EFFECTIVENESS ON A PARTICULAR MISSION WITH QUOTE YOUR SHOOTING IS ONLY MATCHED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE NIGHT" UNQUOTE. DURING HER FIRST SEVEN DAYS ON THE GUNLINE, CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER CODAY OF (b) (6) EXPENDED 4195 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION IN ROUND-THE-CLOCK OPERATIONS. TOGETHER WITH OTHER SHIPS OF THE CHARLESTON BASED DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, CONE IS UPHOLDING THE TRADITION OF A SUCCESSFUL NAVY-MARINE CORPS TEAM EFFORT. CONE, FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN J. J. TICE, DEPARTED HER HOMEPORT OF CHARLESTON ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 FOR DUTY WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET.

16 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

WHILE IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION SOUTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE ON 15 FEBRUARY 1968, THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER USS CONE FIRED 950 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS. MARINE SPOTTERS ASHORE REPORTED EXCELLENT COVERAGE OF ALL TARGETS WHICH WERE POSSIBLE TO OBSERVE. CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, WAS CREDITED WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THREE STRUCTURES, AND DAMAGE TO AT LEAST TWO OTHER STRUCTURES. EXACT ASSESSMENT OF TARGET DAMAGE WAS NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO ENEMY CONTROL OF THE TARGET AREA. IN THE SEVEN AND ONE-HALF DAYS THIS CHARLESTON BASED DESTROYER HAS BEEN ON STATION AS NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT UNIT, CONE HAS EXPENDED 5150 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS BOTH IN AND SOUTH OF THE DMZ. THIS ROUND THE CLOCK OPERATION HAS ONLY BEEN POSSIBLE DUE TO THE ENTHUSIASM AND STAMINA OF THE CREW OF CONE. THE MARINE SPOTTERS CONTINUOUSLY COMMENTED ON THE RAPID RATE OF FIRE OF CONE'S GUNS AND THE ACCURACY OF THE SHOOTING, BOTH ATTRIBUTABLE DIRECTLY TO THE EXCEPTIONAL EFFORTS BEING MADE BY ALL HANDS. CONE JOINS HER SISTER SHIPS OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE, AND OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, ON DUTY OFF THE SHORES OF BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH VIET NAM.

17 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

ON 16 FEBRUARY 1968, THE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DE 866) EXPENDED 480 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION WHILE ON STATION AS A NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT UNIT IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION JUST SOUTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. TAKING UNDER FIRE ENEMY TARGETS BOTH IN AND SOUTH OF THE DMZ, CONE COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODY, RESPONDED TO CALL FOR FIRE MISSIONS FROM MARINE SPOTTERS ASHORE ON SEVEN DIFFERENT OCCASIONS. THESE MISSIONS WERE OBSERVED BY THE SPOTTERS AND EXCELLENT TARGET COVERAGE WAS REPORTED ON ALL MISSIONS. OTHER MISSIONS THROUGHOUT THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR PERIOD WERE OF THE HARRASSMENT AND INTERDICTION (H&I) TYPE DESIGNED TO KEEP THE ENEMY TROOPS ALWAYS IN A STATE OF FEAR AND CONFUSION NOT KNOWING WHERE THE NEXT ROUNDS WILL FALL. THIS ATLANTIC FLEET "GREYHOUND" OF THE SEA, WAS CREDITED WITH THE PROBABLE KILLING OF AT LEAST TWO OF THE ENEMY TROOPS WHEN ONE SPOTTER REPORTED QUOTE "I SAW FIVE OF THEM RUNNING INTO ONE OF YOUR BURSTS BUT I ONLY SAW THREE COME OUT" UNQUOTE, IT WAS ON THIS OCCASION THAT CONE WAS ASSIGNED A MISSION WITH A TARGET OF AN ESTIMATED 800 ENEMY TROOPS WHO HAD INFILTRATED A VILLAGE TWO MILES TO THE SOUTHEAST OF GIO LINH. SO MANY OF THE ENEMYS RANKS WERE OBSERVED TO FLEE INTO THE TREES AFTER CONE COMMENCED HER BOMBARDMENT THAT THE SPOTTER SAID THAT HE DIDN'T EXACTLY KNOW WHERE HE SHOULD TELL THE SHIP TO SHOOT SINCE THERE WERE TROOPS RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE. THE TARGET WAS AGAIN BOMBARDED LATER ON DURING THE NIGHT BUT DARKNESS PREVENTED FURTHER EVALUATION. AS THE SPOTTER PUT IT, QUOTE IF THEY DID RETURN TO THE VILLAGE I AM SURE THAT YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN THEM WITH YOUR OUTSTANDING COVERAGE. YOU DEFINITELY MUST OF SCARED THE HELL OUT OF THEM" UNQUOTE. CONE, A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN D. V. SCHERMERHORN, DEPARTED HER HOMEPORT OF CHARLESTON ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 IN COMPANY WITH DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR

TWO COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE. DURING HER PRESENT DEPLOYMENT WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET CONE HAS ALSO SERVED AS A SEARCH AND RESCUE DESTROYER IN THE GULF OF TONKIN IN SUPPORT OF THE NAVY'S AIR EFFORT AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM.

18 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

DURING ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION JUST SOUTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE ON 17 FEBRUARY 1968, THE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) EXPENDED 798 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS. RESPONDING RAPIDLY TO CALL-FOR-FIRE MISSIONS FROM MARINE SPOTTERS ASHORE ON ELEVEN OCCASIONS, CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6), WAS CREDITED WITH EXCELLENT COVERAGE OF ALL TARGET AREAS. AS ONE SPOTTER PUT IT QUOTE BEAUTIFUL, JUST BEAUTIFUL UNQUOTE. THE TARGETS INCLUDED, AMONG OTHERS, NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS, KNOWN SUPPLY AREAS, AND CONFIRMED ARTILLERY AND MORTAR POSITIONS. CONE, A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, WAS CREDITED WITH SILENCING ACTIVE SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM A KNOWN ENEMY POSITION, DESTROYING ONE STRUCTURE WHILE DAMAGING THREE OTHERS AND ONE BRIDGE. TARGET LOCATION PREVENTED ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE. AT THE END OF HER NINTH DAY ON THE GUNLINE, CONE HAS EXPENDED 6430 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION IN SUPPORT OF THE MARINES, AN ALL HANDS EFFORT FOR WHICH THE MARINE SPOTTERS HAVE CONTINUOUSLY STATED THAT THEY ARE EXTREMELY APPRECIATIVE. AS THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE, CONE DEPARTED HER HOMEPORT OF CHARLESTON ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 FOR HER TOUR OF DUTY WITH THE NAVAL UNITS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET IN THE WATERS OFF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

19 FEBRUARY 1969

NEWS RELEASE

DURING THE PERIOD FROM MIDNIGHT 17 FEBRUARY 1968 TO 0600, 19 FEBRUARY 1968, THE ATLANTIC FLEET, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) EXPENDED 1070 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION WHILE ON DUTY AS A NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT SHIP WITH THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION SOUTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. RESPONDING TO SIXTEEN CALL-FOR-FIRE MISSIONS REQUESTED BY THE MARINE SPOTTERS ASHORE, ENEMY TARGETS INCLUDING KNOWN NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS IN BATTALION STRENGTH, ACTIVE MORTAR AND ARTILLERY POSITIONS, AND MECHANIZED INFILTRATION ROUTES WERE TAKEN UNDER FIRE BY THE TWO TWIN FIVE INCH CALIBER GUN MOUNTS OF CONE. THE MARINE SPOTTERS REPORTED THAT THE TARGET COVERAGE WAS IN MOST CASES OUTSTANDING AND NEVER LESS THAN EXCELLENT. DURING HER ELEVEN DAY TOUR OF DUTY ON THE GUNLINE, CONE COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6), FIRED SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND ONE ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION. COMMENTING ON THIS PERFORMANCE, COMMANDER CODAY STATED IN A MEMORANDUM TO THE CREW OF CONE QUOTE THE SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ROUNDS FIRED DURING THE ELEVEN DAY PERIOD AT KNOWN ENEMY POSITIONS ARE A MEASURE OF YOUR WILLINGNESS TO WORK TO THE LIMITS OF ENDURANCE. NO ONE WHO HAS NOT BEEN HERE WILL KNOW HOW MUCH EFFORT WAS EXPENDED MERELY HANDLING SO MANY TONS OF AMMUNITION. NO ONE NOT HERE CAN PROPERLY APPRECIATE WHAT IT MEANS TO STAND WATCH FOR SIX HOURS ON THE LINE, FIRING CONTINUOUSLY, THEN WORK FOR SIX HOURS MORE TAKING AMMUNITION ABOARD AT SEA IN A PITCH BLACK NIGHT WITH GREEN WATER DRENCHING US TO THE SKIN, AND THEN BACK ON WATCH FOR SIX MORE HOURS-- IF I HAD NOT TIMED THE ROUNDS MYSELF I WOULD NEVER BELIEVE THAT THE GUN CREWS COULD ACHIEVE A RATE OF FIRE OF ONE ROUND PER GUN EVERY TWO AND ONE HALF SECONDS. NEVERTHELESS THIS IS WHAT WE DID WHENEVER THE SPOTTERS

CAUGHT ENEMY TROOPS IN THE OPEN AND TIME WAS PRECIOUS---I BELIEVE OUR FINEST MOMENT, A TEXTBOOK LESSON ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NAVAL GUNFIRE, CAME WHEN CONE'S SALVOS CAUSED THE ENEMY TROOPS WHO INFILTRATED A VILLAGE IN LARGE NUMBERS, TO BREAK AND RUN FOR THE TREES. OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED WITHOUT RISKING THE LIFE OF A SINGLE MARINE.UNQUOTE.

THE NAVAL GUNFIRE LIAISON OFFICER OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE MEN OF CONE QUOTE YOUR CONSTANT QUICK RESPONSE, AND SPIRIT OF ENTHUSIASM HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS ASSET TO OUR JOINT EFFORTS. YOU ARE A FINE SHOOTING SHIP. IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE HAVING YOU ON THE LINE. HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON. WELL DONE. UNQUOTE. CONE, A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, HAS NOW DEPARTED THE GUNLINE FOR OTHER DUTIES WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET. THE SHIP DEPARTED CHARLESTON ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 AS THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE.

22 FEBRUARY 1968

NEWS RELEASE

THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER USS CONE HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED AN 11 DAY TOUR AS A NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT SHIP IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION JUST SOUTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. DURING THIS PERIOD ON THE GUNLINE, CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6), EXPENDED 7531 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS IN AND SOUTH OF THE DMZ. IN COMMENTING ON THIS COMMENDABLE EFFORT THE COMMANDER OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR STATED QUOTE AS CONE DEPARTS THE GUNLINE FOR OTHER DUTIES, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE OFFICERS AND MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR HER OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF THE PAST ELEVEN DAYS. CONE'S RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT DURING THIS PERIOD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF: 22 CONFIRMED ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION, 29 STRUCTURES DESTROYED, AND NUMEROUS ARTILLERY POSITIONS SILENCED. IN YOUR DELIVERY OF OVER SEVEN THOUSAND 5/38 ROUNDS YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION FOR RAPID AND ACCURATE FIRE ON ANY OCCASION AND SUCH PERFORMANCE BY A DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR UNIT IS A SOURCE OF GREAT PERSONAL SATISFACTION TO ME. CONE WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOME ON THE GUNLINE TEAM. WELL DONE. CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, USN, UNQUOTE. CAPTAIN SCHERMERHORN WAS THE COMMANDER IN CHARGE OF GUNLINE OPERATIONS AT THIS TIME. AS A MEASURE OF THE EFFORT PUT FORTH BY THE CREW OF CONE TO PROVIDE THE MARINES THE SUPPORT NEEDED, APPROXIMATELY 663,000 POUNDS OF AMMUNITION HAD TO BE TAKEN ABOARD AT SEA, AND HAND CARRIED TO THE MAGAZINES. AS ONE MEMBER WAS HEARD TO REMARK. "NOW I KNOW WHAT THEY MEANT IN THAT SONG, PRAISE THE LORD AND PASS THE AMMUNITION." CONE, THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE IS PRESENTLY OPERATING AS AN ESCORT DESTROYER FOR THE ATTACK AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63) OPERATING IN THE GULF OF TONKIN. THE SHIP DEPARTED HER HOMEPORT OF CHARLESTON, S.C. ON 15 NOV 67.

5 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

THE CHARLESTON, S. C. BASED DESTROYERS, USS CONE (DD 866) AND USS ROBERT H. MCCARD (DD 822) DEPARTED SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES ON 2 MARCH 1968 IN COMPANY WITH USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63) ENROUTE TO YANKEE STATION IN THE GULF OF TONKIN. WHILE IN SUBIC BAY, AT THE INVITATION OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF KITTY HAWK, CAPTAIN D. C. DAVIS, OFFICERS AND MEN OF CONE VISITED THE CARRIER FOR ORIENTATION ON CARRIER OPERATIONS. THE DESTROYERS, UNDER THE TACTICAL COMMAND OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF CONE, COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6), ARE ESCORTS FOR THE 76,700 TONE ATTACK AIRCRAFT CARRIER KITTY HAWK WHILE SHE IS ENGAGED IN AIR OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES AIMS IN VIETNAM. AS ESCORT DESTROYERS FOR THE "BIRDFARM", AS AIRCRAFT CARRIERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REFERRED TO, CONE AND MCCARD ARE READY TO COUNTER SUBMARINE, AIR, OR SURFACE THREATS. IN ADDITION, THE TWO "SMALLBOYS", AS DESTROYERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REFERRED TO, PERFORM DUTIES OF RESCUE DESTROYERS SHOULD AN AIRCRAFT CRASH INTO THE SEA DURING RECOVERY OR LAUNCH. THE MCCARD, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER SAM DOAKS DEPARTED CHARLESTON ON 1. NOV 67 AS A UNIT OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR ONE WHILE CONE SAILED FROM CHARLESTON ON 15 NOV 67 AS THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO UNDER THE TACTICAL COMMAND OF CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE. THE SHIPS ARE BUT TWO OF THE SEVEN UNITS OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR OPERATING WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET. DESRON FOUR IS COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN.

5 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

IN SIXTEEN MINUTES OF ACTION AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE COASTAL DEFENSE POSITIONS TEN MILES NORTHWEST OF THE CITY OF DONG HOI, THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) FIRED FIVE INCH 38 CALIBER AMMUNITION WHILE PARTICIPATING IN SEA DRAGON OPERATIONS WITH THE USS HOEL (DDG 13) AND USS BLUE (DD 744) ON 5 MARCH 1968. CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODY OF (b) (6), WAS ASSIGNED THE TASK OF SUPPRESSING THE ENEMY SHORE BATTERIES, WHILE HOEL, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE BLUE, WAS BOMBARDING A NORTH VIETNAMESE SUPPLY ROUTE LEADING TO THE DMZ. ALTHOUGH THE RESULTS OF CONE'S SUPPRESSION FIRE COULD NOT BE OBSERVED FROM THE SHIP DUE TO TARGET LOCATION, NO ENEMY FIRE WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THE SEA DRAGON FORCES. THIS IS CONE'S FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATE WITH SEA DRAGON SINCE ARRIVING FOR DUTY WITH SEVENTH FLEET UNITS OFF VIETNAM IN JANUARY. CONE IS ASSIGNED TO DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, AND DEPARTED HER HOMEPORT OF CHARLESTON, S.C. ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 AS THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE, III.

6 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

THE CHARLESTON, S.C. BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) TOOK NORTH VIETNAMESE COASTAL DEFENSE BATTERIES UNDER FIRE ON 6 MARCH 1968 WITH HER FIVE INCH 38 CALIBER GUNS WHILE PARTICIPATING IN SEA DRAGON OPERATIONS. CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6) (b) (6) WAS ASSIGNED THE TASK OF SUPPRESSING THE ENEMY SHORE BATTERIES WHILE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS SEA DRAGON TEAM, USS HOEL (DDG 13) AND USS BLUE (DD 744) FIRED ON ENEMY SUPPLY ROUTES LEADING TO THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. THE EXACT DAMAGE CAUSED TO THE GUN EMPLACEMENTS BY CONE COULD NOT DEFINITELY BE ASCERTAINED BUT IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE GUNS DID NOT SHOOT BACK. CONE IS A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, AND JOINS HER DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO SISTER SHIPS IN THE ACTION WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM.

8 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

ON 7 MARCH 1968, THE GENERAL PURPOSE DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866), PARTICIPATING IN HER THIRD DAY OF SEA DRAGON OPERATIONS, RAINED HEAVY FIRE FROM HER FIVE INCH CALIBER GUN MOUNTS ON NORTH VIETNAMESE COASTAL DEFENSE POSITIONS 21 MILES SOUTHEAST OF DONG HOI. CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6), WAS ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF SUPPRESSING THE ENEMY SHORE BATTERIES WHILE THE OTHER SHIPS OF THE SEA DRAGON TEAM ATTACKED ENEMY SUPPLY ROUTES. NO HOSTILE FIRE WAS RECEIVED FROM ENEMY SHORE BATTERIES. CONE, ONE OF SEVEN CHARLESTON BASED DESTROYERS OPERATING WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET, HAS NOW FIRED OVER EIGHT THOUSAND ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH 38 CALIBER AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS IN SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM SINCE FIRING HER FIRST SHOT IN COMBAT ON 8 FEB 1968. DURING THIS TIME, CONE HAS ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION FOR RAPID, ACCURATE SHOOTING. TO ACHIEVE THIS STATE OF THE ART MANY HOURS WERE SPENT IN STRENUOUS TRAINING BY THE CREW. AS A RESULT OF GUNNERY EXERCISES HELD IN THE SUMMER OF 1967, IN PREPARATION FOR DEPLOYMENT, THE FORWARD FIVE INCH GUN MOUNT OF CONE, MOUNT 51, WAS RECENTLY AWARDED THE "E" FOR COMBAT EFFICIENCY BY REAR ADMIRAL VINCENT P. HEALEY, COMMANDER CRUISER DESTROYER FLOTILLA SIX. THE MOUNT CAPTAIN OF MOUNT 51, PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS (b) (6) (b) (6) OF (b) (6) SAID, WHEN HEARING OF THE AWARD, QUOTE NO ONE PERSON CAN BE CITED AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOUNT WINNING THE "E". IT WAS A TEAM EFFORT UNQUOTE. TWO OTHER TEAM MEMBERS PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS (b) (6) OF (b) (6) AND PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS (b) (6) OF (b) (6) HEARTILY ENDORSED THE COMMENT BY PETTY OFFICER (b) (6). IN PRESENTING THE AWARD TO THE MOUNT CAPTAIN AND CREW OF MOUNT 51, THE COMMANDING OFFICER, COMMANDER CODAY, STATED QUOTE ALTHOUGH THIS AWARD IS GIVEN TO THE MOUNT CREW, WE CAN ALL SHARE IN THEIR

PRIDE AND SENSE OF SATISFACTION. CONE'S RECORD DURING THIS DEPLOYMENT TO THE PACIFIC WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GREAT DEAL OF SWEAT AND HARD WORK AND I PRESENT THIS AWARD TO YOU AS A SYMBOL OF THE EFFORT MADE BY THE ENTIRE CREW UNQUOTE.

CONE DEPARTED HER HOMEPORT OF CHARLESTON, S.C. ON 15 NOV 67 AS THE FLAGSHIP OF CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE, III, COMMANDER DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO. SINCE REPORTING FOR DUTY WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET OFF VIETNAM IN JANUARY 1968 CONE HAS SEEN DUTY ON THE GUNLINE, ON SEA DRAGON OPERATIONS, AS A SEARCH AND RESCUE DESTROYER, AND AS AN ESCORT DESTROYER SCREENING THE ATTACK AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN THE GULF OF TONKIN.

11 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

ON 11 MARCH, THE DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) REPORTED TO THE 11 CORPS NAVAL GUNFIRE LIAISON OFFICER IN SOUTH VIETNAM TO PROVIDE NAVAL GUNFIRE IN SUPPORT OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA MARINES. CONE WAS WELCOMED TO 11 CORPS BY THE CREW OF A U. S. NAVY SWIFTBOAT WHO GRACIOUSLY TOOK SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CONE CREW ABOARD FOR AN INDOCTRINATION CRUISE. THE SWIFTBOAT CREW ALSO PROVIDED A SEVEN POUND LOBSTER WHICH BECAME THE GUEST OF HONOR AT THE EVENING MEAL. DURING THE DAY, CONE EXPENDED FIVE INCH 38 CALIBER AMMUNITION WHILE FIRING ON VIET CONG POSITIONS 45 MILES NORTH OF CAM RAHIN BAY. ON ONE MISSION, CONE WAS CREDITED WITH CAUSING TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AS THE RESULT OF BOMBARDMENT OF A VIET CONG SUPPLY DUMP. THE AIR SPOTTER REPORTED EXCELLENT COVERAGE ON ALL TARGETS. CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY OF (b) (6), IS A MEMBER OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE III, AND OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN. THE SQUADRON DEPLOYED FROM CHARLESTON IN NOVEMBER 1967 AND HAS BEEN OPERATING WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET OFF THE SHORES OF SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM.

12 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

WHILE ENGAGED IN ACTION AGAINST ENEMY POSITIONS FIFTY MILES NORTH OF CAM RAHN BAY ON 12 MARCH 1968, THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) EXPENDED FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION. CONE DIRECTED HER GUNFIRE AGAINST ENEMY SUPPLY DUMPS AND ASSEMBLY POINTS LOCATED IN THIS MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN ALONG THE SOUTH VIETNAM COAST. ON ONE MISSION, CONE'S SALVOS CAUSED NUMEROUS FIRES IN A THICK WOODED AREA SUSPECTED AS AN ENEMY CONCENTRATION AND SUPPLY CENTER. FLYING DEBRIS AND CLOUDS OF REDDISH SMOKE WERE READILY VISIBLE FROM THE BRIDGE OF THE SHIP, FOLLOWED BY SPURTS OF FLAME. IN A SHORT TIME AN AREA ESTIMATED BY THE SPOTTER TO COVER THIRTY ACRES WAS ABLAZE. THE U. S. ARMY AIR SPOTTER OPERATING WITH THE ROK TROOPS, STATED AT THE END OF THE AFTERNOON MISSIONS QUOTE EXCELLENT TARGET COVERAGE. THIS HAS BEEN REALLY THE FINEST SHOOTING THAT I HAVE SEEN SINCE I HAVE BEEN HERE. INITIAL ROUNDS WERE TIGHTLY GROUPED UNQUOTE. CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER A. CODAY, IS HOMEPORTED IN CHARLESTON, S. C., AND IS THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE, III, ATTACHED TO DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN. CONE IS ONE OF SEVEN DESRON FOUR SHIPS PRESENTLY OPERATING IN VIETNAM WATER HAVING DEPLOYED IN NOVEMBER 1967.

14 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

AT DAWN ON 13 MARCH 1968, THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER, USS CONE (DD 866) BOMBARDED A VIET CONG STRONG POINT SIX MILES NORTH NORTH EAST OF TUY HOA IN WHAT WAS THE OPENING ROUND OF A JOINT SEA, AIR AND LAND ASSAULT. THE FIRST STREAKS OF DAWN WERE DIMMING THE STARS AS CONE SLIPPED SILENTLY INTO POSITION, THE SHIP COMPLETELY DARKENED TO AVOID OBSERVATION BY POSSIBLE ENEMY EYES AS THE VIET CONG POSITIONS WERE CUT INTO THE SLOPES OF A HILL OVERLOOKING THE BEACH. WITH THE RADAR NAVIGATION TEAM ACCURATELY FIXING THE SHIPS' POSITION, VITAL INFORMATION WAS FED TO THE COMPUTERS AND IN MOMENTS THE SHIP'S TURRETS SWUNG TOWARD THE TARGET AND THE GUN BARRELS LIFTED TO THE COMPUTED ELEVATION. TERSELY THE WORD WENT OUT FROM THE SHIP'S COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER TO THE MARINE CORPS SPOTTER ASHORE, "READY". THE SECOND HAND ON THE CLOCK CAME TO THE MINUTE, THE REPLY CAME BACK, "FIRE". SALVO AFTER SALVO CRASHED OUT AS THE SPOTTER DIRECTED THE SHIP'S FIRE PRECISELY WHERE IT WAS NEEDED. AS THE SECOND HAND PASSED THE THREE MINUTE MARK, THE COMMAND CAME OVER THE AIR, "CHECK FIRE". WITHIN SECONDS AFTER THE LAST ROUNDS HAD BURST ON THE TARGET, U. S. ARMY HELICOPTERS STREAMED OVER THE AREA, ROCKETS AND TRACERS POURING DOWN. NOW THOSE TOPSIDE ON CONE WERE TREATED TO A RINGSIDE SEAT AS THE AIRCRAFT CRISS-CROSSED BACK AND FORTH. SUDDENLY THEY TOO WERE SILENT AND A FLIGHT OF HELICOPTERS DROPPED DIRECTLY INTO THE AREA, DISEMBARKING TROOPS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA MARINES. NOW IT WAS CONE'S TURN TO PARTICIPATE AGAIN AS THE SPOTTER CALLED FOR SATURATION FIRE ON OUTLYING ENEMY POSITIONS. IT WAS ALL OVER BEFORE SUNRISE. THE TARGET AREA SECURED, CONE'S GUNS FELL SILENT. THE SPOTTER COMPLIMENTED THE SHIP FOR A TASK WELL DONE AND NINE ENEMY STRUCTURES WERE OFFICIALLY LISTED AS DESTROYED BY THE SHIP'S GUNS. THE WORK WAS PASSED TO ALL HANDS "SECURE FROM BATTLE STATIONS,

BREAKFAST FOR THE CREW". CONE DEPARTED HER HOMEPORT OF CHARLESTON, S.C. ON 15 NOVEMBER 1957 AS THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE III, FOR OPERATIONS WITH SEVENTH FLEET. SINCE FIRING HER FIRST SHOT IN COMBAT ON 8 FEBRUARY 1968, CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY, HAS EXPENDED FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS IN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

14 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

WHILE FIRING ON VIET CONG POSITIONS ELEVEN MILES NORTHEAST OF PHAN THIET, THE CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) EXPENDED HER NINE THOUSANDTH ROUND OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS IN VIET NAM. DURING THIS MISSION ON 14 MARCH 1968, CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY, SCORED DIRECT HITS ON A RIVER FORD WHICH HAS BEEN IN USE BY THE VIET CONG AS A VITAL LINK IN THEIR SUPPLY SYSTEM. CONE WAS ALSO CREDITED WITH EXTENSIVELY DAMAGING A VIET CONG SUPPLY TRAIL AND SECTIONS OF AN ENEMY TRENCH LINE. IN AN EFFORT TO DESTROY ALL ENEMY INSTALLATIONS IN THE TARGET AREA, THE MARINE AIR SPOTTER, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIGH WINDS, DIRECTED THE SHIP'S ROUNDS INTO AREAS OF HEAVY BRUSH WHICH CAUGHT FIRE. FANNED BY THE WIND, THE FIRES QUICKLY SPREAD AND BURNED OVER SIXTY ACRES. AT LEAST ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION WAS OBSERVED THRU THE OBSCURING SMOKE. A VIET CONG SANCTUARY HAD BEEN NEUTRALIZED. WHEN INFORMED OF THE FACT THAT CONE HAD JUST FIRED HER 9000TH ROUND, THE SPOTTER REPORTED QUOTE YOUR 9000TH ROUND WAS RIGHT ON TARGET UNQUOTE.

CONE HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN VIET NAM OPERATIONS SINCE REPORTING FOR DUTY WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET IN JANUARY 1968. THE SHIP IS A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, AND OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, COMMANDED BY CAPTIAN JOHN J. TICE III.

15 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

AT EXACTLY 1500 ON 15 MARCH 1968, THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) COMMENCED BOMBARDMENT OF VIET CONG POSITIONS 21 MILES SOUTHWEST OF CAM RANH BAY WHILE SUPPORTING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA MARINES. TAKING VIET CONG ASSEMBLY AND BIVOUAC AREAS UNDER FIRE WITH HER FIVE INCH CALIBER MAIN BATTERY, CONE'S GUNFIRE WAS EXPERTLY ADJUSTED FROM TARGET TO TARGET BY A U. S. MARINE SPOTTER FLYING ABOVE THE AREA IN A LIGHT OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT. SINCE SOME OF THE TARGETS WERE LOCATED HIGH ON THE SLOPES OF THE HILLS OVERLOOKING THE SEA, CONE PERSONNEL HAD A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE AT CLOSE RANGES THE ACTUAL FALL OF SHOT AS THE SHELLS IMPACTED THE TARGET AREA. TWO HOURS AND TWENTY TWO MINUTES LATER THE MISSION WAS TERMINATED AS THE SPOTTER WAS RUNNING LOW ON FUEL. CONE, COMMANDED BY COMMANDER BY COMMANDER ARTHUR CODAY, WAS ACCREDITED WITH EXCELLENT TARGET COVERAGE WHICH CAUSED AT LEAST EIGHT SEPARATE FIRES AND TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. AS THE FLAGSHIP OF CAPTAIN JOHN J. TICE III, COMMANDER DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, CONE DEPARTED HER HOMEPORT OF CHARLESTON, S. C. ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967. CONE IS A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR WHICH IS COMPOSED OF SEVEN DESTROYERS COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN. DESRON FOUR IS THE FIRST CHARLESTON BASED DESTROYER SQUADRON TO OPERATE WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET IN VIETNAM OPERATIONS.

16 MARCH 1968

NEW RELEASE

NINE CREW MEMBERS OF THE CHARLESTON, S.C. BASED DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) RECENTLY SPENT TWO DAYS ON BOARD A U. S. NAVY SWIFTBOAT OPERATING IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE OPPORTUNITY OCCURED UNEXPECTEDLY ON 11 MARCH AS THE CONE PERSONNEL WERE ENJOYING AN ORIENTATION CRUISE ON THE SWIFTBOAT WHEN CONE RECEIVED ORDERS TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO A NEW AREA FOR A HIGH PRIORITY MISSION. AS ENSIGN (b) (6) OF (b) (6) LATER RECALLED QUOTE AS DINNER TIME APPROACHED, THE SWIFTBOAT PUT INTO A SMALL COVE NEAR A FRIENDLY VIETNAMESE VILLAGE AND ANCHORED. A SMALL CHARCOAL GRILL WAS BROKEN OUT AND A DELICIOUS MEAL OF STEAK AND CHICKEN WAS PREPARED. WHILE WE WERE THERE THE VILLAGERS ROWED OUT IN THEIR BOATS AND EAGERLY FLOCKED AROUND THE BOAT AS THE BOAT CREW AND CONE PERSONNEL PASSED OUT CANDY, CIGARETTES, AND LEAFLETS. THE VILLAGERS WERE ALL QUITE HAPPY ABOUT THE WHOLE THING AND THE CREW REPORTED THAT THEY FREQUENTLY VISITED THIS VILLAGE AND THAT THEY HAD MADE MANY FRIENDS THERE. THE VILLAGERS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN UNFRIENDLY BUT THROUGH THE CONTINUOUS HUMANTARIAN EFFORTS OF THE SW FTBOAT CREW, THEY ARE NOW SINCERE FRIENDS AND ARE VERY COOPERATIVE. OUR MEAL WAS CUT SHORT BY A RADIO MESSAGE INDICATING THAT CONE WAS MOVING OUT OF THE BAY AND THAT OUR PRESENCE ON BOARD WAS REQUIRED. ALTHOUGH THE BOAT DEPARTED THE VILLAGE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, BY THE TIME WE REACHED THE SHIP'S PREVIOUS POSITION, SHE HAD PUT TO SEA FOR AN IMPORTANT GUNFIRE SUPPORT MISSION UP THE COAST, AND IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE UNEXPECTED GUESTS ABOARD THE SWIFTBOAT FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT UNQUOTE. THE SWIFTBOAT CONTINUED ON ITS ASSIGNED PATROL, GIVING THE CONE PERSONNEL AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AT FIRST HAND MANY ASPECTS OF THE BOAT'S VARIOUS DUTIES. PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS (b) (6) (b) (6) OF (b) (6) REPORTED QUOTE WHILE WE WERE ABOARD, THE SWIFTBOAT CREW ANSWERED ALL OUR QUESTIONS AND GAVE US A GOOD DEMONSTRAT-

IGN OF THE BOAT AND ITS ARMAMENT. WE WERE EACH GIVEN A FULL MAGAZINE OF CARTRIDGES AND WE WERE ALLOWED TO FIRE THEM FROM AN M-16 AUTOMATIC RIFLE, AN EXPERIENCE NEW TO MOST OF US. WE STOPPED A NUMBER OF SMALL SOUTH VIETNAMESE FISHING VESSELS WHICH WE SEARCHED AND WHOSE PAPERS WE CHECKED. IN THIS WAY WE LEARNED FIRST HAND WHAT PROCEDURES WERE USED IN CHECKING THESE NUMEROUS SMALL BOATS. THIS IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY JOBS OF THE SWIFTBOATS IN THIS AREA, AND WHILE WE WERE ABOARD ABOUT 15 SMALL BOATS WERE CHECKED. BEING PART OF THE SWIFTBOAT TEAM ON AN ACTUAL PATROL WAS THE MOST OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES THAT I HAVE EVER HAD, UNQUOTE. ANOTHER CREW MEMBER, PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS (b) (6) OF (b) (6)

(b) (6) THOUGHT OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN A DIFFERENT SENSE WHEN HE SAID QUOTE HAVING SPENT SOME TWENTY MONTHS ISLAND HOPPING FROM THE NEW HEBRIDES TO SAIPAN SOME YEARS AGO, THIS BROUGHT BACK SOME PLEASANT MEMORIES OF THE PAST, UNQUOTE. CONE PERSONNEL WERE DIVIDED UP INTO TWO SECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SLEEPING SINCE THERE WERE NOW 16 PEOPLE ABOARD A BOAT THAT DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH ACCOMODATIONS FOR ITS OWN CREW OF 7. THE GUESTS WERE ALSO INSTRUCTED IN WHAT TO DO IN CASE THEY WERE FIRED UPON. PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS (b) (6) OF (b) (6)

(b) (6) RELATED QUOTE, ALTHOUGH WE WERE THRILLED AT THE IDEA OF AN ALL NIGHT SWIFTBOAT RIDE, WE REALIZED THAT OUR PRESENCE WAS A BURDEN ON THE CREW SO WE DECIDED TO RESPOND TO THEIR HOSPITALITY BY BEING AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. WE HELPED IN COOKING THE MEALS, DID ALL THE CLEANING-UP AFTERWARD, HELPED SEARCH FISHING BOATS, AND ENDED BY BAILING SOME THREE HUNDRED GALLONS OF WATER FROM THE STERN OF THE SWIFTBOAT WHICH WAS THE RESULT OF A LEAKING EXHAUST PIPE UNQUOTE. PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS (b) (6)

(b) (6) OF (b) (6) REMEMBERED QUOTE ON THE MORNING OF THE 12TH, CONE WAS STILL NOT IN THE AREA SO THE SWIFTBOAT SKIPPER FINISHED HIS PATROL AND LEFT US OFF IN NHA TRANG AS HE HAD TO CONTINUE TO HIS HOME

BASE FURTHER SOUTH. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR CONE TO PICK US UP THERE ON THE 13TH SO WE KNEW THAT WE HAD THE REST OF THE DAY TO SEE WHAT SHORE DUTY IN VIETNAM WAS LIKE UNQUOTE. THE CONE CREW NOW BECAME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NAVY CONTINGENT AT NHA TRANG, AND AS THIRD CLASS PETTY OFFICER (b) (6) OF (b) (6) SAID QUOTE, THROUGHOUT OUR STAY WE WERE ALL SHOWN THE GREATEST HOSPITALITY BY THE NAVY CONTINGENT STATIONED THERE, UNQUOTE. THE "UNAUTHORIZED ABSENTEES", AS THE WANDERING CONE CREW MEMBERS WERE JOKINGLY REFERRED TO ABOARD SHIP, SPENT THE REMAINDER OF THE STAY IN NHA TRANG LEARNING ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, ABOUT THE RECENT TET OFFENSIVE AND ABOUT THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE U. S. FORCES IN VIETNAM. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES, THIRD CLASS PETTY OFFICER (b) (6) OF (b) (6) SEAMAN (b) (6) OF (b) (6) AND SEAMAN (b) (6) OF (b) (6) SUMMED IT UP BY SAYING QUOTE, WE RETURNED ABOARD CONE HAVING LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE NAVY'S ROLE ASHORE IN VIETNAM AND OF COURSE ABOUT THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE SWIFTBOATS. THERE IS NOT A MAN AMONG US WHO WILL FORGET HIS EXPERIENCES IN THESE PAST TWO DAYS, AND EACH OF US HAD GAINED A NEW APPRECIATION FOR THE JOB BEING DONE BY THE NAVY ASHORE IN VIETNAM, UNQUOTE.

16 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

EIGHTEEN STRUCTURES WERE DESTROYED AND AT LEAST TEN DAMAGED ON 16 MARCH 1968 AS THE RESULT OF SHORE BOMBARDMENT OF ENEMY POSITIONS THIRTY TWO MILES SOUTH-SOUTHEAST OF TAM QUAN BY THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866). CONE TOOK VIET CONG CONCENTRATIONS AND ASSEMBLY AREAS UNDER FIRE WITH HER FOUR FIVE INCH CALIBER GUNS WHILE IN SUPPORT OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM'S II CORPS. COMMANDED BY COMMANDER ARTHUR (ODAY OF (b) (6)

(b) (6) CONE WAS ALSO CREDITED WITH NEUTRALIZATION OF LARGE SECTIONS OF AN ENEMY TRENCH LINE AND A WATER SUPPLY ROUTE. AT THE END OF THE AFTERNOON MISSION, THE U. S. MARINE AIR SPOTTER SAID OF CONE'S PERFORMANCE, QUOTE YOU HAVE HAD A REAL GOOD DAY. YOU ARE ONE OF THE FINEST UNITS I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH FOR A LONG TIME. HOPE TO HAVE THE PLEASURE AGAIN UNQUOTE.

CONE IS BUT ONE OF THE SEVEN CHARLESTON BASED DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR UNITS PRESENTLY OPERATING OFF THE SHORES OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM IN SUPPORT OF U. S. AIMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. AS THE FLAGSHIP OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, CONE DEPARTED CHARLESTON, ON 15 NOVEMBER 1967 AND REPORTED FOR DUTY WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET IN JANUARY 1968.

18 MARCH 1968

NEWS RELEASE

TWO BROTHERS FROM (b) (6) RECENTLY HAD A REUNION ABOARD THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER USS CONE (DD 866) OPERATING IN THE WATERS OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM. IT ALL BEGAN ONE NIGHT WHEN SONAR TECHNICIAN THIRD CLASS (b) (6) WAS STANDING WATCH IN THE SHIP'S COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER DURING A GUNFIRE SUPPORT MISSION. QUOTE WHILE ON WATCH MARCH 12TH I WAS LOOKING AT A CHART OF THE AREA WE WERE OPERATING IN AND TO MY SURPRISE I FOUND THAT WE WERE ONLY ABOUT 65 MILES FROM WHERE MY BROTHER (b) (6) WAS STATIONED, UNQUOTE. ONCE INFORMED OF THE SITUATION, IMMEDIATE ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE COMMAND TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A VISIT BY THE ARMY MEMBER OF THE (b) (6) FAMILY, SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS (b) (6). THE MARINE SPOTTER ASHORE WAS ASKED TO CONTACT (b) (6) OUTFIT, THE 54TH SIGNAL BATTALION. IN A FORTUNATE TWIST OF FATE, CONE WAS DIRECTED THE NEXT DAY TO PROCEED TO NHA TRANG TO EMBARK NINE CONE CREW MEMBERS WHO HAD SPENT TWO DAYS OPERATING WITH A U. S. NAVY SWIFTBOAT. NHA TRANG HAPPENED TO BE WHERE (b) (6) WAS STATIONED.

WORD WAS RECEIVED THAT (b) (6) WAS INFORMED OF CONE'S PENDING VISIT AND THAT HE WOULD TRY TO MEET HER IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. (b) (6) LATER RECALLED QUOTE ON BOARD CONE I WAITED IN HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION FOR THE BOAT TO COME FROM THE BEACH. EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ONLY A SHORT WAIT IT SEEMED LIKE HOURS BEFORE I SPOTTED A PATROL BOAT HEADING FOR THE SHIP. AS IT GOT CLOSER I KNEW IT WAS THE ONE WE WERE EXPECTING SINCE I COULD SEE CONE SAILORS ABOARD. SOON I SPOTTED (b) (6). I CAN HONESTLY SAY IT WAS THE HAPPIEST MOMENT IN SEVERAL MONTHS. AS HE CAME ABOARD HE SAID JOKINGLY "IT A SHAME I HAVE TO COME 12,000 MILES TO SEE YOUR SHIP" UNQUOTE. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE BY CONE'S COMMANDING OFFICER, COMMANDER ARTHUR ODDAY OF (b) (6) FOR (b) (6) TO SAIL WITH THE SHIP FOR TWO

DAYS OF GUNFIRE SUPPORT MISSIONS. DURING THESE TWO DAYS, (b) (6) GOT A TASTE OF SHIPBOARD LIFE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN SOMETHING OF THE EFFORTS OF THE NAVY IN VIETNAM AS (b) (6) LATER REMARKED QUOTE THERE WERE MANY HUMEROUS MOMENTS AND A LOT OF CATCHING UP ON NEWS FROM HOME. THERE WAS A SLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE NAVAL TERMINOLOGY SUCH AS BULDHEAD VICE WALL, DECK VICE FLOOR, ETC., OF COURSE (b) (6) GOT SEA SICK AND WE HAD TO KID HIM A LITTLE ABOUT THAT. WHILE ON BOARD (b) (6) WAS ABLE TO WATCH OUR SHIP TAKE ON FUEL UNDERWAY FROM AN OILER. HE WAS ALSO FASCINATED AT THE SIZE OF OUR GUNS AND THE NOISE THEY MADE WHEN FIRED UNQUOTE. CONE RECEIVED ORDERS TO STEAM NORTH SO DAVID'S STAY ON BOARD CAME TO AN END ON THE NIGHT OF 15 MARCH WHEN THE SHIP PUT HIM OFF ON A PATROL BOAT RETURNING TO NHA TRANG. HE REPORTED TO COMMANDER CODAY THAT HIS STAY ON BOARD WAS AN EXPERIENCE HE WOULD NEVER FORGET BUT THAT HE STILL PREFERRED DRY LAND.

(b) (6) AND (b) (6) ARE THE SONS OF MR. AND MRS. (b) (6) OF

(b) (6) CONE DEPARTED HER SECOND TOUR ON THE GUNLINE ON 17 MARCH 1968 WITH ALL HANDS ENJOYING THE SATISFACTION OF READING A MESSAGE FROM THE MARINE SPOTTER ASHORE QUOTE YOU ARE THE BEST SHOOTING UNIT THAT I HAVE EVER WORKED WITH. I REALLY HOPE TO SEE YOU COME BACK AGAIN UNQUOTE. (b) (6) IS CERTAIN HIS BROTHER WOULD AGREE.

18 APRIL 1968

NEWS RELEASE

A CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER FIRED HER TEN THOUSANDTH ROUND OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION AGAINST ENEMY POSITIONS IN VIETNAM. WHILE OPERATING IN SUPPORT OF ALLIED TROOPS TWENTY MILES NORTHWEST OF THE CITY OF HUE, THE DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO UNIT BOMBARDED VIET CONG AUTOMATIC WEAPONS POSITIONS AND BUNKERS. THE MARINE SPOTTER, FLYING ABOVE THE TARGET AREAS IN A LIGHT OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, REPORTED EXCELLENT TARGET COVERAGE BY THE SHIP'S GUNFIRE WHICH RESULTED IN THE DAMAGING OF AT LEAST TWO BUNKERS AND NEUTRALIZATION OF THE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS POSITION. ALSO NOTED BY THE SPOTTER WAS THE FACT THE TEN THOUSANDTH ROUND CAUSED A SECONDARY EXPLOSION. AS A UNIT OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, THIS ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER JOINS SEVEN OF HER SQUADRON SISTER SHIPS WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM.

19 APRIL 1968

NEWS RELEASE

AS THE RESULT OF BOMBARDMENT OF AN ENEMY FORTIFIED VILLAGE THREE MILES NORTHWEST OF HUONG DIEN IN SOUTH VIETNAM ON 19 APRIL 1968 AN ATLANTIC FLEET GENERAL PURPOSE DESTROYER WAS CREDITED WITH DESTROYING FORTY ENEMY STRUCTURES WHILE DAMAGING THIRTY OTHERS AS WELL AS DAMAGING THREE BUNKERS AND CAUSING TWO LARGE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS THE SHIP WAS ALSO CREDITED BY THE MARINE AIR SPOTTER WITH TWO ENEMY TROOPS KILLED IN ACTION. LATER IN THE DAY THE DESTROYER A UNIT OF THE CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR EXPENDED FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON AN ENEMY BUNKER COMPLEX THREE AND ONE HALF MILES WEST OF HUONG DIEN. TWO DIRECT HITS WERE SCORED ON AN UNUSUALLY LARGE CONCRETE BUNKER MEASURING APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN YARDS BY TWENTY YARDS CAUSING HEAVY DAMAGE AS THE SHELLS PENETRATED AND EXPLODED INSIDE THE BUNKER. IN ADDITION TWO OTHER SMALLER BUNKERS WERE DAMAGED. FURTHER DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WAS NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO TARGET LOCATION.

20 APRIL 1968

NEWS RELEASE

DURING THE MORNING OF 20 APRIL 1968, A UNIT OF DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, HOMEPORTED IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, EXPENDED NEARLY TWO HUNDRED ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON AN ENEMY FORTIFIED VILLAGE THREE MILES NORTHWEST OF HUONG DIEN IN SOUTH VIETNAM. OPERATING IN SUPPORT OF ALLIED FORCES, THE ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER WAS CREDITED WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF FIFTEEN ENEMY STRUCTURES AND THIRTY THREE YARDS OF TRENCH LINE WHILE DAMAGING TEN OTHER STRUCTURES AND ONE BUNKER. THE MARINE CORPS AIR SPOTTER REPORTED EXCELLENT TARGET COVERAGE FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY OF NAVAL BOMBARDMENT OF THIS ENEMY STRONGHOLD BY THIS DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR COMBATANT.

21 APRIL 1968

NEWS RELEASE

DURING THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR PERIOD ENDING AT 2000, 21 APRIL 1968, AN ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR EXPENDED OVER SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM'S NORTHERN I CORPS. THE MARINE SPOTTER REPORTED THAT THE SHIP'S GUNFIRE WAS OUTSTANDING DURING THE BOMBARDMENT OF AN ENEMY ARTILLERY POSITION AND THAT EXCELLENT TARGET COVERAGE WAS ACHIEVED. ADDITIONAL TARGET DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WAS NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO TARGET LOCATION. THE DESTROYER, A UNIT OF THE CHARLESTON, S. C. BASED DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO, HAS NOW EXPENDED OVER ELEVEN THOUSAND ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION AGAINST VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE TARGETS IN BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

22 APRIL 1968

NEWS RELEASE

DURING A DAY OF GUNFIRE MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, AN ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER ENJOYED UNUSUAL SUCCESS DURING ONE SHORT CALL FOR FIRE MISSION EARLY ON THE MORNING OF 22 APRIL. THE SPOTTER TO WHICH THE SHIP WAS ASSIGNED FOR THE DAY CALLED FOR NAVAL GUNFIRE TO SOFTEN UP AN AREA IN PREPARATION FOR MOVEMENT OF FRIENDLY TROOPS THROUGH THE AREA. THE SHIP, A UNIT OF THE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER DIVISION FORTY TWO, EXPENDED FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION FOR THE MISSION. UPON COMPLETION, DAMAGE ASSESSMENT BY THE SPOTTERS AND BY SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENT THROUGH THE AREA WAS FIVE MASONARY STRUCTURES DESTROYED, THREE STRUCTURES DAMAGED AND FIVE BUNKERS DESTROYED. FIRED FROM SEAWARD, THE TARGET AREA AND NAVIGATIONAL LANDMARKS WERE OFTEN OBSCURED BY LOW LYING COASTAL HAZE. THE SHIP'S COMMANDING OFFICER COMMENDED THE SHIP'S RADAR AND VISUAL NAVIGATION TEAMS FOR THEIR ACCURACY WHICH RESULTED IN IMPRESSIVE DAMAGE WITH A MINIMUM EXPENDITURE OF ROUNDS.

23 APRIL 1968

NEWS RELEASE

AT DAWN ON 23 APRIL 1968, AN ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER, IN SUPPORT OF U. S. MARINE UNITS IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, WAS ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF BOMBARDING A VIET CONG STRONGHOLD IN PREPARATION FOR A MARINE SWEEP THROUGH THE AREA. REQUESTED TO FIRE INTO A TARGET AREA AT 0600, PLANS WERE DRAWN BY LT (b) (6) OF (b) (6), THE WEAPONS OFFICER OF THIS CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER, TO FIRE ONE ROUND EVERY MINUTE INTO THE AREA IN ORDER TO KEEP THE ENEMY FORCES PINNED DOWN. AT 0700, THE MARINE UNITS ENTERED THE AREA AND REPORTED INITIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF THREE BUNKERS DESTROYED AND THIRTEEN OTHER STRUCTURES DESTROYED OR DAMAGED. IN ONE OF THE DEMOLISHED BUNKERS, MARINE PERSONNEL DISCOVERED A WOUNDED ENEMY SOLDIER WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND BY HIS COMRADES. IT WAS READILY APPARENT THAT THE SHIPS GUNFIRE HAD A DEMORALIZING EFFECT ON THE ENEMY TROOPS AS VIET CONG HELMETS AND PACKS WERE STREWN ABOUT THE AREA. IN ADDITION, NUMEROUS TRAILS OF BLOOD WERE DETECTED. THE MARINE CORPS SPOTTER, QUITE IMPRESSED BY THIS DISPLAY OF PRECISION NAVAL GUNFIRE, COMPLIMENTED THE SHIP FOR ITS QUOTE GOOD SHOOTIN UNQUOTE. AS THE MARINE UNITS PRESSED FURTHER INTO THE AREA, INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATED THAT A COMPANY OF VIET CONG WERE ATTEMPTING AN ENCIRCLEMENT. AN AIR SPOTTER, FLYING DIRECTLY ABOVE THE SCENE OF ACTION, CALLED FOR THE SHIP TO DELIVER IMMEDIATE SUPPRESSION FIRE, AND ONCE AGAIN THE DESTROYER RAPIDLY RESPONDED. THE RESULTS OF THIS SUPPRESSION FIRE ARE NOT YET KNOWN. DURING THE AFTERNOON, WHILE THE SHIP STOOD OFF SHORE WAITING TO ASSIST THE MARINES IF NEEDED, SHE WAS APPROACHED BY ONE OF THE NAVY SWIFTBOATS WHICH OPERATED IN THE AREA. THE BOAT WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH ITS RADAR AND REQUESTED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SHIP. ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS (b) (6) OF (b) (6)

(b) (6) AND ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN THIRD CLASS (b) (6) OF (b) (6)
(b) (6) QUICKLY REPAIRED THE INOPERATIVE RADAR AND
WERE REWARDED WITH A RIDE ON THE SWIFTBOAT. OBSERVING THIS, THE
SWIFTBOAT CAPTAIN WAS SWAMPED WITH REQUESTS BY THE DESTROYERS PERSONNEL
FOR INDOCTRINATION RIDES, SINCE MANY OF THEM WERE THINKING OF APPLYING
FOR SWIFTBOAT DUTY. THE SWIFTBOAT CREW RESPONDED WITH PLEASURE AND
DISPLAYED THE CAPABILITIES OF THE BOAT TO BOATSWAINS MATE THIRD CLASS
(b) (6) OF (b) (6) PERSONNELMAN SECOND CLASS (b) (6)
(b) (6) OF (b) (6) COMMUNICATIONS YEOMAN THIRD CLASS
(b) (6) OF (b) (6), AND RADIOMAN THIRD CLASS (b) (6)
OF (b) (6). ONE OF THE CREW MEMBERS OF THIS DESTROYER
SQUADRON FOUR UNIT, BOATSWAINS MATE THIRD CLASS (b) (6) OF (b) (6)
(b) (6) WAS GRANTED PERMISSION TO REMAIN ABOARD THE SWIFTBOAT
OVERNIGHT IN ORDER TO OBSERVE THE BOAT ON PATROL.
IN APPRECIATION FOR HOSPITALITY OF THE SWIFTBOAT CREW, THE SHIPS CHIEF
COMMISSARIAN, (b) (6) OF (b) (6) PROVIDED ICE
CREAM.

30APRIL1968

NEWS RELEASE

A CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA BASED DESTROYER OPERATING OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S I CORPS IN SUPPORT OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA MARINES ON 29 APRIL 1968, EXPENDED OVER SIX HUNDRED ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH CALIBER AMMUNITION ON VIET CONG POSITIONS TWENTY MILES SOUTH OF DANANG. RESPONDING TO ELEVEN CALL-FOR-FIRE MISSIONS, THIS DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR UNIT WAS CREDITED WITH DESTROYING TWENTY EIGHT STRUCTURES, FOUR BUNKERS, THREE BOATS, NINETY FIVE YARDS OF TREE LINE AND THIRTY THREE YARDS OF TRENCH LINE, AS WELL AS DAMAGING FORTY STRUCTURES, SEVEN BUNKERS AND TWO BOATS. THE MARINE CORPS SPOTTER, FLYING ABOVE THE TARGET AREA IN A LIGHT OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, COMPLIMENTED THE SHIP THROUGHOUT THE DAY FOR ITS RAPID AND ACCURATE SHOOTING. SUCH COMMENTS AS QUOTE THAT WAS REAL FINE SHOOTING; THAT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SHOT; THE BULLETS ARE GOING EXACTLY WHERE I WANT THEM; WHAT'S YOUR MOTTO DOWN THERE, HAVE BULLETS, WILL SHOOT UNQUOTE WERE RECEIVED WITH PRIDE BY THE CREW OF THIS DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO COMBATANT. BUT OF ALL THE SPOTTERS COMMENTS, THE ONE MOST APPRECIATED BY THE SHIP AS SHE COMPLETED THIS HER THIRD TOUR ON THE GUNLINE WAS QUOTE I HAVE SPOTTED FOR QUITE A FEW SHIPS OUT HERE, BUT YOU ARE DEFINITELY THE BEST THAT I HAVE EVER SEEN UNQUOTE. A SIMILAR KUDOS WAS GIVEN THE SHIP BY ANOTHER MARINE CORPS SPOTTER ON 8 FEBRUARY 1968, THE DAY ON WHICH THE SHIP COMMENCED HER FIRST TOUR OF DUTY ON THE GUNLINE. SINCE THAT DAY, THE SHIP HAS EXPENDED OVER TWELVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION ON ENEMY POSITIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND NORTH VIETNAM, AN EFFORT OF WHICH THE CREW OF THIS ATLANTIC FLEET DESTROYER IS JUSTIFIABLY PROUD.

MESSAGES RECEIVED

17 APRIL 1968

FROM: COMMANDER DESTROYER DIVISION 92
TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS CONE (DD 866)

APPRECIATE FINE TURNOVER UPON MY ARRIVAL. YOUR OPERATIONS SMOOTH, EFFICIENT, TIMELY, AND SPIRITED. WELL DONE. HOPE WE SEE YOU IN YOKO BEFORE YOU RETURN TO CHARLESTON. GOOD LUCK ON GUNLINE, BEST REGARDS.

19 FEBRUARY 1968

FROM: NAVY GUNLINE LIASON OFFICER THIRD MARINE DIVISION
TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS CONE (DD 866)

YOUR CONSTANT QUICK RESPONSE, AND SPIRITED ENTHUSIASM HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS ASSET TO OUR JOINT EFFORTS. YOU ARE A FINE SHOOTING SHIP. IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE HAVING YOU ON THE LINE. HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON. "BRAVO ZULU."

21 APRIL 1968

FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS FIREDRAKE
TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS CONE (DD 866)

IT HAS BEEN A REAL PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOUR "GUNG HO" SHIP. WE RATE YOU AMONG THE BEST OUT HERE.

30 APRIL 1968

FROM: COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON 19
TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS CONE (DD 866)

THE CONE HAS PROVIDED VERY EFFECTIVE GUNFIRE SUPPORT FOR THE PAST 12 DAYS. YOUR IMPRESSIVE SHOOTING WILL BE MISSED ON THE LINE. HAVE A GOOD TRIP HOME. GOOD LUCK AND SMOOTH SAILING.

30 APRIL 1968

FROM: CIRCUIT SUPERVISOR, NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION
TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS CONE (DD 866)

YOU ARE ONE OF THE BEST SHIPS I HAVE EVER WORKED SINCE I'VE BEEN ON THIS STATION.

11 MAY 1968

FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS KITTY HAWK
TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS CONE (DD 866)

THE HAWK WILL MISS CONE'S CAN DO SPIRIT AND HIGH DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM. GOOD LUCK AND SMOOTH SAILING.

11 MAY 1968

FROM: COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR
TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS CONE (DD 866)

AS CONE DEPARTS THE GUNLINE FOR OTHER DUTIES I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE OFFICERS AND MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR HER OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF THE PAST ELEVEN DAYS. CONE'S RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT DURING THIS PERIOD SPEAKS FOR HERSELF: 22 CONFIRMED ENEMY KIA, 29 STRUCTURES DESTROYED, AND NUMEROUS ARTILLERY POSITIONS SILENCED. IN YOUR DELIVERY OF OVER 7501 5"33 ROUNDS YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION FOR RAPID AND ACCURATE FIRE ON ANY OCCASION AND SUCH A PERFORMANCE BY A DESRON FOUR UNIT IS A SOURCE OF GREAT PERSONAL SATISFACTION TO ME. CONE WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOME ON THE GUNLINE TEAM. WELL DONE. CAPTAIN DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, USN.

20 JUNE 1968

FROM: COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET
TO: COMMANDER DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO

WELCOME BACK TO THE ATLANTIC FLEET. DURING YOUR SEVEN MONTH DEPLOYMENT TO WESTPAC YOUR EFFECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ALL ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDING SAR, ESCORT, RADAR PICKET, AND NGFS DUTY EARNED YOU WELL OBSERVED REPUTATIONS AS TAUT SHIPS, ABLE TO PERFORM SMARTLY. THROUGH YOUR DEDICATED PERFORMANCE OF DUTY YOU HAVE PROUDLY REPRESENTED THE ATLANTIC FLEET AND THE ATLANTIC FLEET CRUISER DESTROYER FORCE.

MAY THE REMAINDER OF YOUR VOYAGE BE SMOOTH AND SWIFT AND THE REUNION WITH YOUR FAMILIES BE PROMPT AND JOYFUL. ADMIRAL E. P. HOLMES

21 JUNE 1968

FROM: COMMANDER DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO
TO: DESTROYER DIVISION FOUR TWO

AS YOU COMPLETE YOUR FINAL PREPS FOR A WELL DESERVED WELCOMING AND REUNION WITH LOVED ONE'S I WISH TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL ADMIRATION AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPERB PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE THROUGHOUT A LONG AND ARDIOUS DEPLOYMENT.

FROM YANKEE STATION TO THE GUNLINE YOUR OPS HAVE REFLECTED THE GREATEST CREDIT ON THE REPUTATION OF DESDIV 42.

I AM PROUD TO BE ON THIS TEAM.

LET'S PUT ON A GOOD SHOW FOR THE HOME FOLKS IN CHARLESTON.

CAPTAIN J. J. TICE, USN

COMMENDATIONS RECEIVED BY CONE PERSONNEL FOR PERFORMANCE OF DUTY
DURING WESTPAC DEPLOYMENT

RECEIVING THE NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH COMBAT DISTINGUISHING DEVICE:

LCDR (b) (6), USN
LT (b) (6), USN

RECEIVING THE NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL WITH COMBAT DISTINGUISHING DEVICE:

LT (b) (6), USN
LT (b) (6), USN
LTJG (b) (6), USNR
LTJG (b) (6), SC, USNR
SKC (b) (6), USN

RECEIVING COMSEVENTHFLT LETTERS OF COMMENDATION:

MM1 (b) (6), USN
MMC (b) (6), USN
BM1 (b) (6), USN
CSC (b) (6), USN
RM2 (b) (6), USN
BTC (b) (6), USN
GMG (b) (6), USN
GMG (b) (6), USN
MM1 (b) (6), USN
BT1 (b) (6), USN
BT2 (b) (6), USN
EMC (b) (6), USN
ETR (b) (6), USN
BTC (b) (6), USN
RMI (b) (6), USN
RDI (b) (6), USN

RECEIVING COMGRUDESGRU 7TH FLEET CITATIONS:

FD3 (b) (6)
FD3 (b) (6)
FD3 (b) (6)
FTG (b) (6)
GMG (b) (6)
MM1 (b) (6)
BM3 (b) (6)
FTG (b) (6)
TM3 (b) (6)
BT2 (b) (6)

MESSAGE TRAFFIC 1968

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>INCOMING</u>	<u>OUTGOING</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
JAN	749	412	1161
FEB	611	341	952
MAR	625	371	996
APR	534	285	819
MAY	297	176	473
JUN	319	197	516
JUL	294	87	381
AUG	279	67	346
SEP	266	31	297
OCT	360	37	397
NOV	255	16	271
DEC	<u>333</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>373</u>
TOTAL	4922	2060	6982

*MISCELLANEOUS FACTS ABOUT THE WESTPAC DEPLOYMENT

STEAMED 54,112 MILES (ENGINE)

FIRE 12,861 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION

SPENT 156 DAYS AT SEA

SPENT 66 DAYS IN PORT

REFUELED OR REPLENISHED 54 TIMES

BURNED 4,024,598 GALLONS OF FUEL

SERVED 231,470 RATIONS

PROCESSED OVER 7500 MESSAGES

*BETWEEN CHARLESTON AND CHARLESTON. NOT FROM 1 JANUARY ON.

UNREPS (LESS REFUELING)

19 JAN	USS ALUDRA (AF 55)
9 FEB	USS FIREDRAKE (AE 14)
10 FEB	USS CASTOR (AKS 51)
10 FEB	USS VESUVIUS (AE 15)
11 FEB	USS VESUVIUS (AE 15)
13 FEB	USS REGULUS (AF 57)
13 FEB	USS VESUVIUS (AE 15)
15 FEB	USS VESUVIUS (AE 15)
16 FEB	USS ZELIMA (AF 49)
19 FEB	USS MAUNA LOA (AE 8)
6 MAR	USS PARICUTIN (AE 18)
9 MAR	USS CASTOR (AKS 51)
9 MAR	USS MOUNT BAKER (AE 4)
10 MAR	USS PARICUTIN (AE 18)
14 MAR	USS POLLUX (AK 54)
19 MAR	USS FIREDRAKE (AE 14)
20 MAR	USS POLLUX (AK 54)
25 MAR	USS PROCYON (AF 61)
14 APR	USS VEGA (AF 59)
17 APR	USS POLLUX (AK 54)
17 APR	USS FIREDRAKE (AE 14)
19 APR	USS VEGA (AF 59)
21 APR	USS FIREDRAKE (AE 14)
24 APR	USS PARICUTIN (AE 18)
25 APR	USS PROCYON (AF 61)
27 APR	USS NIAGRA FALLS (AFS 3)
27 APR	USS PARICUTIN (AE 18)

FUELING

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT (GAL)</u>
6 JAN	YO SUBIC BAY	99,149
12 JAN	YO SUBIC BAY	67,913
17 JAN	USS MATTAPONI (AO 41)	87,761
19 JAN	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO 145)	60,773
22 JAN	USS PASSUMPSIC (AO 107)	53,405
25 JAN	USS TALUGA (AO 62)	79,365
28 JAN	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO 145)	58,087
31 JAN	KAOHSIUNG	53,924
5 FEB	KAOHSIUNG	58,976
10 FEB	USS TALUGA (AO 62)	100,572
13 FEB	USS TALUGA (AO 62)	58,770
17 FEB	USS CALIENTE (AO 53)	89,861
21 FEB	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO 145)	78,432
24 FEB	YO SUBIC BAY	37,888
1 MAR	YO SUBIC BAY	60,974
4 MAR	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO 148)	88,348
6 MAR	USS NECHES (AO 45)	40,204
9 MAR	USS CALIENTE (AO 53)	62,141
12 MAR	USS TALUGA (AO 62)	87,954
16 MAR	USS MATTADONI (AO 41)	75,503
20 MAR	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO 148)	110,502
23 MAR	USS PONCHATOUULA (AO 148)	86,932
24 MAR	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO 145)	24,248
27 MAR	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO 145)	73,939
29 MAR	USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63)	87,137
6 APR	YO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN	60,443

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT (GAL)</u>
7 APR	YO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN	65,591
10 APR	USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63)	101,843
12 APR	USS PONCHATOULA (AO 148)	92,587
14 APR	USS PONCHATOULA (AO 148)	56,117
17 APR	USS NAVASOTA (AO 106)	85236
22 APR	USS TALUGA (AO 62)	82,627
26 APR	USS TOLOVANA (AO 64)	54,362
28 APR	USS CALIENTE (AO 53)	35,318
1 MAY	USS PONCHATOULA (AO 148)	73,535
3 MAY	YO SUBIC BAY	65,143
13 MAY	YO OKINAWA	135,175
20 MAY	YO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN	81,226
25 MAY	M DWAY ISLAND	119,272
31 MAY	PEARL HARBOR	88,527
7 JUN	NAVAL STATION, SAN DIEGO	111,097
9 JUN	NAVAL STATION, SAN DIEGO	44,031
18 JUN	NAVAL STATION, RODMAN	148,757
25 JUN	NAVAL STATION, CHARLESTON	66,359
31 JUL	NAVAL STATION, CHARLESTON	92,210
2 AUG	NAVAL STATOON, KEY WEST	74,130
12 AUG	NAVAL STATION, CHARLESTON	24,880

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

CDR A. CODAY, USNR

LCDR (b) (6) USN

LT (b) (6) USN

LT USN

LT USN

LTJG (b) (6)

LTJG

LTJG

LTJG

LTJG

LTJG

ENS

ENS,

ENS

ROSTER OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL

(b) (6)



(b) (6)



(b) (6)



(b) (6)



(b) (6)

